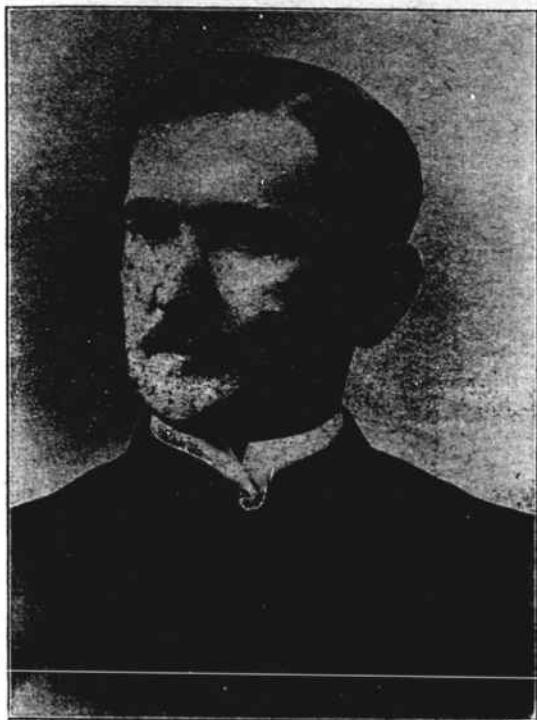


The old church stands today a Christian home amply meeting every demand. A structure massive and beautiful, satisfying the demands of taste and comfort and likely for many years to give accommodation for all church work.

There have been 2,488 members of this church—1,570 on examination and 918 on certificate. The church now has 630 members, with 15 elders and 12 deacons.

During the pastorate of the present pastor, Rev. A. T. Graham, D. D., the work of the church has grown so much and has extended so far into the surrounding community that



Rev. James P. Smith, D. D., Stated Clerk.

the church a short time ago called Rev. J. N. Montgomery as assistant pastor.

This is distinctly a missionary church. It has five outposts that are supplied by the assistant pastor. In the various schools connected with the church there are over a hundred officers and teachers and over a thousand pupils in Sunday-schools and Bible classes. There are two Bible and industrial classes conducted among the colored people.

This church has always shown much interest in work among the negroes. Before the Civil War, Capt. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, then a professor at the Virginia Military Institute, started a Sunday-school in the church for negroes. After the war this was kept up for many years by Col. J. T. L. Preston, assisted by many of the other members of the church.

The influence of this work among the negroes was very great and far extended. It was the means of bringing several young negro men into the ministry.

Ministers Who Have Served This Church.

1. Rev. Geo. A. Baxter, D. D., 1819-1832.
 2. Rev. J. W. Douglas, 1832-1834.
 3. Rev. W. M. Cunningham, 1834-1840.
 4. Rev. John Skinner, D. D., 1840-1847.
 5. Rev. W. S. White, D. D., 1848-1869.
 6. Rev. J. L. Kirkpatrick (S. S.), 1867-1868.
 7. Rev. J. W. Pratt, D. D., 1868-1874.
 8. Rev. J. A. Waddell (S. S.), 1874-1877.
 9. Rev. F. P. Mullally, D. D., 1877-1882.
 10. Rev. D. C. Irwin (S. S.), 1882-1883.
 11. Rev. T. L. Preston, D. D., 1883-1895.
 12. Rev. J. A. Quarles, D. D. (S. S.), 1895-1896.
 13. Rev. Thornton Whaling, D. D., 1896-1905.
 14. Rev. Thompson B. Southall, 1905-1907.
 15. Rev. A. T. Graham, D. D., 1907.
- Assistant pastor, Rev. J. N. Montgomery, 1916.

REPRESENTATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Mr. McCall, in your issue of October 11th, last, gives the U. S. Congress as a body from whom we might learn a profitable lesson on representation. It seems to me that he failed to note that in the Congress of the U. S., a small State with comparatively a very small population (as in the case of Rhode Island, or any other small State) has the same representation in the Senate as in the case of a large State like New York or Pennsylvania; his reasons therefore for the change based on representation in the Congress of the United States are hardly sufficient.

Selma, Ala.

Observer.

FROM GRACE TO GRACE.

The human life is poor when crowned with earth's riches. The human life is troubled as to the things which shall be, even when all seems well. The human heart is anxious and needy even amid the most favorable surroundings.

Man needs God. No life is complete without God. The more of God enters into a life, the more satisfaction and peace are known in it.

Of all this I am frequently reminded as I go about in pastoral work. There are many illustrations met with of man's need of God, and many striking instances of the power of divine grace to sustain and comfort the tried. And so, man's need is grace ("God's undeserved goodness in Christ,") and then more grace, and then more grace!

In my pastoral visiting I once found a man about 63 years of age who had been for 17 years helpless from rheumatism, all that long, weary time bed-ridden, unable to help himself, even to turn in bed, unable to move either hand or foot, so as to wait on himself. Attended of necessity in every want by the care of wife or children; utterly helpless, suffering much. Expecting no relief, until "the silver cord should be loosed." Surely needing grace! And yet I have seen this child of God, patient, cheerful, even content; for God was with him, and God's grace gave him comfort and strength. They, who suffer not so surprisingly, also need that same grace, and beyond their utmost attainment they need more grace!

"Grace all the work shall crown
To everlasting days;
Grace lays in Heaven the
topmost stone,
And well deserves the
praise."

"He giveth more grace,
God resisteth the proud,
but He giveth grace to the
humble."—Addison.

WHAT ONE PAPER DOES.

By Miss Fannie K. Taylor.

I must tell you of the far-reaching good of your paper so kindly sent in my name. Last winter, during my absence, the paper went to the home of the gentleman who acts as superintendent in my mountain Sunday-school, and

after reading it he gave it to some of the people. On my returning at the spring opening of Lees-McRae the paper began its usefulness among our girls. Sometime for their prayer-meeting, sometimes for Christian Endeavor's meeting, and always for help about the Sunday-school lesson. Of the September issues the Hampden-Sidney number was given to our young candidate for the ministry as he started back to that college, and two went to a little crippled girl on the mountain side.

So in the name of many if our people allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for your kindness in granting us this privilege of religious literature.

Lees-McRae Institute, Banner Elk, N. C.

A MOTHER'S SMILE.

By Addison.

(Dedicated to all mothers.)

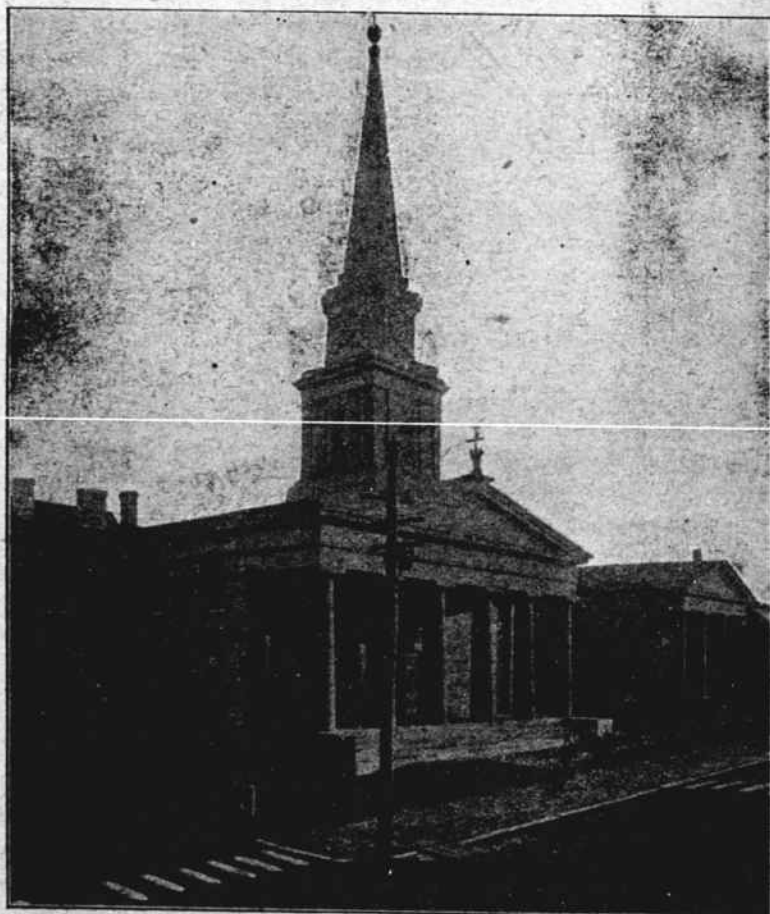
The sweetest thing in nature
Is a mother's tender smile,
As she looks upon her children
With a love that knows no guile.
She's their guide, friend and defender,
And her heart grows warm and tender,
As she thinks of them the while!

The kindest thing in nature
Is a mother's patient smile;
For the little ones are fretful,
Rude, selfish, full of guile,
Their ceaseless wants wear out her strength,
And she grows thin and wan at length;
Yet she smiles on them the while.

The bravest thing in nature
Is a mother's trustful smile,
That goes out to her tempted ones,
As they meet earth's snares and guile.
She claims and binds them to the right
By the fond faith and hope that light
Her dear features with a smile!

Be brave and lead ye mothers!
Pour out your love in a smile;
Your children's hearts are drawn to you
By that kindness without guile,
By that patience fond that yearneth,
By that faith that even burneth—
They'll be captives of your smile!

The shadow of the cross is like the shadow
of the sun, the light and life of the world.—
Fairbairn.



Lexington Presbyterian Church, Where Synod Is Meeting.